

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PV2 JUSTIN RAY YOEMANS, A MODEL OF VALOR IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army PV2 Justin Ray Yoemans of Eufaula, Alabama, who lost his life November 6 while defending our Nation.

Private Yoemans was manning his gun position when his Humvee encountered a roadside bomb during a street patrol of Baghdad, Iraq. According to military accounts, Private Yoemans gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers. He was posthumously awarded a total of five military medals, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Private Yoemans, who was assigned to the Fourth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country at the age of 20. His family and friends describe him as a loving son and a patriot who was proud to serve in the military.

I cannot express the proper words to console his family at the loss of their beloved son. However, I do wish to convey that America shares in your grief as we struggle together to protect our homeland from terrorism.

Private Yoemans loved life and was described by his younger sister as "a little boy inside a great man." America is fortunate to have such "great men" standing up for the cause of freedom. His valor and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

### TRIBUTE TO HENRY G. ATHA

### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I stand before you today to recognize Hank Atha, a man who is credited by his colleagues as doing more for workforce development than any other person in southern Arizona. Mr. Atha is retiring from public service after a distinguished career spanning over 30 years.

Mr. Atha has lived and worked in Tucson since 1948. He is a creative local executive and one of the most experienced workforce development professionals in the country. He served on numerous state and local economic and workforce development organizations and on both the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors professional boards. Mr. Atha promoted legislation at federal, state and local levels. He has international experience and has successfully worked with multi-cultural staff and diverse cultural and economic communities.

Mr. Speaker, in 1984, Mr. Atha organized the Pima County Community Services Department in Tucson, Arizona by combining autonomous federal programs into one department. Over the years he guided the expansion of programming into new areas such as affordable housing, youth education, emergency assistance, homeless services, welfare reform and incumbent worker training.

During his twenty years at the helm of Pima County Community Services, the department doubled in size. He accomplished this by aggressively pursuing state and local funding, federal grants and private support. These efforts resulted in a \$36 million annual budget with 30 separate funding streams for his department.

He pursued the department's mission by supporting the work of local non-profit organizations with as many as 250 grants and services contracts awarded each year. His leadership style welcomed input and encouraged individual initiative. Over the years, many graduate students, adult trainees and motivated young people began their careers in public policy or human-service fields through internships with Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Atha's leadership, Pima County Community Services established one of the nation's first One-Stop Career Centers in order to provide consolidated employment and training services for the City and County. This model, which brought multiple agencies together to provide coordinated services, also proved effective in addressing the basic needs of families in crisis. Mr. Atha oversaw the establishment of the Emergency Services Network in 1986. Subsequent efforts fostered collaboration and innovation in the areas of homeless services, youth programs, and high-tech training. His commitment to closing the wage gap through better job opportunities led to a joint effort with Pima Community College and the City of Tucson to found the Southern Arizona Institute for Advanced Technology.

In the early nineties, Mr. Atha led an all-out response to restore cuts in federal summer youth funds, creating one of the largest summer youth programs, for a city of our size, in the nation. As part of that effort, he promoted legislation that created Arizona's first state-funded summer youth program. He also founded Pledge-A-Job, an annual business outreach campaign to encourage businesses to hire young people seeking career experience during summer breaks. In 2000, he won a Youth Opportunity grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, bringing nearly \$28 million to Pima County as well as creating an integrated system for providing services to young people.

Mr. Speaker, Hank Atha supported many programs that brought untrained homemakers and home health aides to Pima County's Home Health Division, as well as many participants in other community programs, into the Certified Nursing Assistant career track.

One of the activities Mr. Atha worked on recently was to bring together various institutions such as Pima College, University of Arizona, and local hospitals to identify, sponsor and support individuals wishing to enter nursing education programs.

Mr. Speaker, prior to Hank's twenty years with Pima County Government, he volunteered in the Peace Corps from 1966–1968. Following those years of service, he again volunteered his services, this time as a Peace Corps trainer from 1968–69.

Hank Atha received his undergraduate degree from Pomona College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology; graduate studies in Physiology at Washington State University, and received his master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

Mr. Atha taught classes in data analysis, decision-making and program evaluation, as an

adjunct professor at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. He also taught one semester as adjunct professor at the University of Arizona, School of Public Administration. He is a Founding Member and Chairman of the local American Society for Public Administration Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Hank Atha improved the quality of life for many citizens in Tucson, Arizona by investing in people and community-based organizations to strengthen the entire community's capacity to serve those in need, and I ask that the House commend him on his commitment to his community and his country.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes No. 532 and No. 533. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 532, H.R. 1417, the Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act; and "yea" on rollcall No. 533, a bill to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to be in Washington, DC today. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of:

S. 1301, H.R. 5364, H. Con. Res. 430, S. 2965, H.R. 4516, H.R. 3204, H.R. 1350, H.R. 1417, S. 2302, S. 2042, H.R. 5363, S. 2302, H.R. 1417, S. Con. Res. 145, S. 1146, S. 1466, S. 434, H.R. 1284, S. 1727, S. 1241, H.R. 1446, H.R. 1964, H.R. 1113, H.R. 4593, S. 437, S. 2484, H.R. 3936, and S. 2486.

### IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN CHAPPELL FOR HIS ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF A DIESEL FUEL SPILL ON THE SUISUN MARSH WETLANDS

### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Steven Chappell, of the Suisun Resource Conservation District, for his timely actions in protecting the Suisun Marsh wetlands.

Steven Chappell began working for the Suisun Resource Conservation District in August 1994 as a district biologist, and was quickly promoted to executive director, a position he has held for almost 10 years.